



Erie County Youth Bureau
810 East Ferry Street
Buffalo, NY 14211

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Erie County Youth Board:

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- Kelli Blakeley
- David Caywood
- Bill Conrad
- Paul Denning
- Susan Lumadue
- Juliana Norton
- Mitchell Nowakowski
- Kathleen O'Brien
- Brian Rochford
- Ryan Taughrin
- Carolynn Welch



Youth Bureau Chronicle

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A Letter From the Youth Bureau Director

It has been a true pleasure and privilege to partner with so many incredible agencies providing superb Primetime-supported programs this summer. While I thoroughly enjoyed visiting each of the 56 funded programs through July and August, I am especially proud of the work done at the Secure Detention Facility. Part of my duties as Director of the Youth Bureau is to coordinate and schedule a full range of Youth Development Programs for the youth detained at the facility. This summer we were lucky enough to work with five agencies who delivered a varied and comprehensive array of quality youth development programs. These included art instruction in multiple mediums, conflict resolution and restorative justice practices, pro-social life skills development as well as lessons in chess and Spanish language and culture. As a result of these programs, many youth decreased their negative behaviors while residing at the facility. I would also like to think that many youth will have developed some tools which will assist in their making more positive decisions and prevent them from having to return to our care. A very special thanks to Locust Street Arts Program, Young Audiences of WNY, The WNY Peace Center, Child and Adolescent Treatment Services, and Willie Hutch Jones Sports and Education for making this a productive and positive summer for the youth (and staff) here at 810 East Ferry.

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)

During the past three years, Erie County is one of six counties across New York State collaborating with The Annie E. Casey Foundation on an initiative called Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). The goal of JDAI is to reduce unnecessary and inappropriate placement in secure detention. The following eight core strategies guide JDAI work.

Collaboration occurs between major juvenile justice agencies, family court, child welfare, and probation. *Use of accurate data* helps identify areas that need improvement and where challenges are occurring. Data also informs policy and practice decisions. Creation and development of *objective admissions criteria and instruments* assist Family Court judges in making placement decisions. Instruments are consistently assessed for validity and reliability. *Alternative to Detention (ATD) programs* are created to target youth who would otherwise be detained. These services develop plans with families. Plans build on family members' strengths and family members are linked to resources within the community that match their needs. *Case processing reform* contributes to reducing the youth's length of stay in detention. Reform efforts include ensuring that intervention linkage is timely and appropriate. Policies and procedures involving *special detention cases*, such as violations of probation, are reexamined; new practices are implemented to minimize a youth's placement in detention. *Reducing racial disparity* requires specific strategies aimed at eliminating bias and ensuring a level playing field for youth of color. *Improving conditions of confinement* ensures that rigorous protocols and ambition standards are routinely met.

Summer Primetime 2015 A Huge Success Thanks To All Of Our Partners!

Summer Primetime 2015 was a huge success thanks to all of the non-profit agencies and local youth bureaus who provided programming with Erie County funding!

A total of 56 programs were funded this summer, including three local youth bureaus and three programs operating within the Youth Detention Facility located on East Ferry Street in Buffalo.

Dozens of site visits (and many miles traveled) were conducted all across Erie County by Ben Hilligas, John Kordrupel, and a handful of Youth Board members. At each programming location, staff and Board members observed youth experiencing summer learning and fun.

Through academic enrichment and tutoring, Erie County's partners have helped to stem the learning loss that is unfortu-

nately so often synonymous with summer fun.

Other activities included mentoring, computer instruction, arts and crafts, and board games.

Of course, no summer is complete without swimming, kayaking, zip lining, horse riding, fishing, sports and recreation, just to name a handful.

On behalf of the Youth Bureau and the Youth Board, a huge thank you goes out to all of the staff and administrators from all of our funded agencies and local youth bureaus who make this work possible. Thanks for a great summer and we are already looking forward to 2016!

WNY Peace Center: PeaceJam Sessions

"The youth were tremendously responsive and generally warmly appreciative for the positive messages and the helpful tools they received. We used the curriculum as a starting point and had lively discussions; centering and deep slow breathing exercises; activities that included writing, reflection, and drum circles (for listening and cooperation). The Youth Detention Facility and Youth Bureau has been very supportive—their vision of positive change for the youth and our society is one we share and are glad and grateful to collaborate on. It will take all of us, but we are on our way!"

Victoria Ross, Director, WNY Peace Center & Dior Lindsey, UBSSW Intern

Summer Primetime Picnic Held at Ellicott Creek Park

On Friday, August 28th, for the first time in several years, the Youth Bureau and Youth Board hosted a Summer Primetime Picnic at Ellicott Creek Park.

All agencies and local youth bureaus who ran a Primetime program this past summer were invited. A cookout, a water balloon toss, lawn games, fun, and laughter. The picnic was also an opportunity for casual networking and information sharing.

Thank you to all of those who were able to attend the picnic, and thank you to all you helped in any way to make the event a great success!



Youth Leaders of the Amherst Youth Consortium Recognized

The Amherst Youth Consortium (AYC) celebrated the outstanding volunteer service and leadership of 59 members this past spring.

AYC members completed over 3,000 volunteer hours engaging in activities such as stocking food and assisting clients at the New Beginnings Food Pantry, serving as scorekeepers and companions for the Special Olympics PARC Bowling Program and placing warning labels on alcoholic beverages in local grocery stores as part of Project Sticker Shock.

Members also presented the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets to children attending the Amherst Youth & Recreation Department's summer day camp programs, focusing specifically on Asset #26—Caring and Asset #32—Planning and Decision Making.



Pictured above are several members of the Amherst Youth Consortium.

Other activities included providing leadership for the Winter Warm Clothing Project, which assisted over 300 children in receiving new coats, boots, hats, and gloves, sorting clothes at St. Christopher's Outreach, and collecting school supplies for children in need.

The Amherst Youth Consortium is sponsored by the Town of Amherst Youth and Recreation Department and the Erie County Youth Bureau and is celebrating its 25th year of providing youth leadership development to middle and high schools students in the Town of Amherst.



King Urban Life Center: Academic & Technology Success Program

King Urban Life Center's Academic and Technology Success Program is located in the Martin Luther King District at 945 Genesee Street on the East Side of Buffalo. Both the afterschool and summer program have been in existence since 1996.

The program provides youth 5 – 18 years of age with a safe haven for homework assistance, technology, arts and crafts, gardening, tennis lessons, academic workshops, snacks, mentorship, field trips, and instill a continued love for each other and our community.



"I have a safe place to do my homework and study."

—Brandon K., Student

"The idea is to always promote education and a love for learning." –

Giovanna Riggs, Mentor

"The tutors help me to understand my math homework."

—Teah S., Student



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ECYB Mission: “To serve youth and families through support of positive youth development programs and juvenile delinquency prevention and intervention programs that strengthen families and communities.”

[www2.erie.gov/
socialservices](http://www2.erie.gov/socialservices) or search
“Erie County Youth Bureau”

To find out more information on the agencies mentioned in this edition, please contact them or visit their website using the information listed below:

◆ Town of Amherst Youth Consortium

5583 Main Street, Williamsville, NY 14221
716-631-7132 x 7523
<http://www.amherst.ny.us>

◆ King Urban Life Center

945 Genesee Street, Buffalo, NY 14211
716-895-2050
<http://www.kingurbanlifecenter.org/>



YOU'RE INVITED!

ERIE COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU COMMUNITY FORUM

Host: All agencies & local youth
bureaus are invited to
network and collaborate in a
formal setting.

When: Thursday, November 5 from 9:00 AM to 12:00
PM

Where: TBD

